

Class: _____

Name: _____
English Name Family Name

Common IELTS Writing Problems

Wrong	Right
Contractions: <i>Don't, won't, can't, etc.</i>	<i>Do not, will not, cannot</i>
Informal words: <i>Wanna, gonna, etc.</i>	<i>Want to, going to</i>
In a word: <i>In a word, blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah blah</i>	<i>In a word, blah. For example: "We are, in a word, busy."</i>
Usage: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>relax myself/ourselves</i> <i>I feel boring ..., it was bored</i> 	Examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>I was working too hard, it was time to relax.</i> <i>I was bored doing the same thing over and over again.</i>
Overused and/or unnecessary: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Every coin has two sides ...</i> <i>No pain, no gain.</i> <i>Nowadays ...</i> <i>With time going on...</i> <i>With society developing...</i> <i>Beautiful ...</i> <i>Delicious ...</i> <i>That's all, thank you for reading...</i> <i>That is all I want to say ...</i> 	<i>Do not use these words and phrases. Find more descriptive ways of saying things. For example:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Instead of saying "beautiful" to describe where you live, you might say "My city sits on the south bank of the Yellow River. It has many parks and tree-lined streets surrounding the tall apartment buildings where my family lives."</i> <i>Instead of saying "delicious" food, you might say that "she likes to eat spicy foods like hot pot and da pax ji."</i>
Person: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>First person: I</i> <i>Second person: you</i> 	<i>Use only third person, especially in reports. For example: he, she, they, it, the students, the university, etc.</i>
Rhetorical question, especially in the conclusion <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>Don't you agree?</i> <i>What do you think?</i> 	<i>Do not use them.</i>
Sentence fragments: <i>I like moon cakes. Because they are delicious.</i>	<i>He likes eating moon cakes because they remind him of the good times he had with his family during the Mid-Autumn Festivals of his boyhood.</i>
Run-on sentences: <i>I like moon cakes because they are delicious and my mother likes them but my uncle does not like moon cakes ...</i>	<i>He and his mother loved eating moon cakes, but his uncle was a different matter. He found moon cakes to be too sweet and heavy and not at all to his liking.</i>
Paragraphing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>No paragraphs</i> <i>Not enough paragraphs</i> <i>Numbering paragraphs</i> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>One paragraph for each topic.</i> <i>Each time you change topics you must start a new paragraph.</i> <i>Do not number paragraphs unless the teacher tells you to.</i>
Short essay	<i>Be sure that your essays meet the minimum word count requirements. IELTS rules severely punish short essays.</i>
Thinking and writing in Chinese and then translating into English.	<i>Learn to think and write in English to make your writing much better.</i>